



# MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

January 11, 2008

## *News from the Chief*

I am tremendously pleased to report that preliminary crime statistics for 2007 show that overall major crime in Nashville dropped once again for the fourth consecutive year. The unrelenting work of men and women throughout the police department is directly responsible for this tremendous accomplishment. Preliminary numbers suggest that the overall major crime rate was the lowest in nearly two decades and that property crime rate was the lowest in nearly three decades. I expect that the final numbers will be ready by mid-February. I am grateful and very, very proud of your fine work.

In our continuing efforts to enhance crime fighting, each of the six precincts will gain a new Flex team consisting of four officers and one sergeant effective March 1. Flex teams have proven very successful as precinct commanders deploy them to various crime hotspots. Commanders believe, as do I, that the new Flex teams will be very important to our progress in 2008. Formation of the new Flex teams means that bicycle units in the East, Hermitage, and West Precincts, will cease. The Central Precinct, however, will maintain a total of 12 bicycle officers and two bicycle sergeants over two daily shifts.

After the creation of the new Flex teams, patrol staffing at this year's rebid will include 18 more officers than at this time last year. Our aggressive hiring strategy is continuing, and 2008 has the potential to be a very good year in this regard.

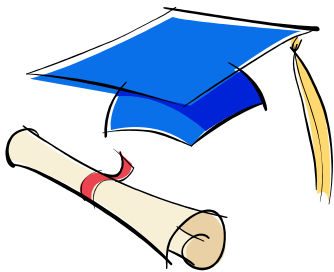
Thank you all very much for your incredible efforts in 2007 and all that you will do to protect Nashville's families and visitors in 2008.

## **Happenings**

**A retirement party was held January 3 for  
South Precinct Commander Rick Lankford.**



**Pictured (l-r) are Councilman Michael Craddock, Councilman Rip Ryman, retired South Precinct Commander Rick Lankford, his wife, Jean Lankford and daughter Ann Marie, Councilman Jim Forkum, and Councilman Jim Gotto**



**Session 56 Graduation Ceremonies  
Thursday, March 6  
6 p.m. at Madison Church of Christ  
106 N. Gallatin Pike**



**Members of Session 56 participate in Team Building exercises during physical training**



**Members of Session 56 participate in one handed shooting drills during firearms training.**



The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Basket Program successfully delivered food and toys to over 200 needy families Christmas Eve morning. Central Precinct Commander Andy Garrett is the police department's volunteer coordinator and "Chief Elf" of the Christmas Basket Program.



**Chief Elf, Central Precinct Commander Andy Garrett**



**Volunteers gather Christmas Eve morning to organize Christmas Baskets for delivery**

## **The Precinct News**

### **Hermitage**

Two men were quickly captured after they robbed Zeno's Wheels and More on Nolensville Pike. Officers spotted the getaway car on Murfreesboro Pike ten minutes after the robbery. Both suspects bailed from the getaway Cadillac, but were captured after a brief chase. Both suspects admitted their involvement in the robbery. Cash from the robbery was also recovered.

Coordinated efforts between Hermitage Precinct officers, Canine, and Aviation Units led to the arrest of an aggravated burglary suspect. Shawn Michael Tate, 19, is charged with three counts of aggravated burglary, but is a potential suspect in 20-30 additional burglaries. Tate was on probation for a June aggravated burglary conviction.

During a knock and talk at a suspected drug house, officers arrested a juvenile who was in possession of a loaded semi-automatic handgun. A woman was also arrested for felony cocaine possession.

Hermitage Precinct detectives charged a Tennessee parolee in a series of New Year's Day hotel robberies.

In one of the cases, Elmi Abdi, 30, of Glastenbury Road, robbed a clerk at the Crossland Studio Extended Stay Hotel at 1210 Murfreesboro Pike. Incredibly, the clerk told police Abdi was the same man who robbed her in 2002. She positively identified Abdi as the man who robbed her again on New Year's Day.

Abdi was paroled in August of 2007 after serving four years of an eight-year sentence for aggravated robbery.

### **South**

South Precinct detectives were simply outstanding in their efforts to identify and arrest several high profile homicide suspects in recent weeks.

Robert Williams and Stephanie Hudson are charged in the December 18<sup>th</sup> murder of Jerry McEwen who was stabbed outside the Kroger store on E. Thompson Lane while coming to the aid of an elderly woman whose purse was stolen by Williams. Hudson was the getaway driver.

Detectives charged a man in the December 15<sup>th</sup> shooting death of Dominique Roper. Roper was shot during a party inside a Cane Ridge Road apartment.

Detectives also developed a person of interest in the December 15<sup>th</sup> shooting death of Jose Coronado, the December 13<sup>th</sup> shooting death of Brandon Coons, and the December 19<sup>th</sup> shooting death of George Ingle.

## **East**

An investigation by Officer Morgan Ford during a traffic stop revealed that the 33-year-old driver was wanted on several outstanding felony warrants from 1996 on charges of aggravated assault, aggravated burglary, and cocaine possession. He told Officer Ford he had not been in the Nashville area for years. He was arrested without incident.

A man walking in an alley near South 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Fatherland Street ducked behind a fence when he saw police patrolling the area. Officers stopped to talk to him and detected a strong odor of marijuana. Seized in a subsequent search of the man were a loaded pistol and two small bags of marijuana.

## **North**

A driver was pulled over for a traffic violation. Seized during a consent search of a 16-year-old passenger were a pistol, 15.2 grams of marijuana, and cash. The teen admitted that the money came from selling drugs.

## **West**

Officers arrested a man charged with robbing a woman outside of a Walgreens on Charlotte Pike. He crashed his getaway car into a fire hydrant, but drove on. Officers stopped him before he could endanger anyone else and took him into custody without further incident.

During a traffic stop for speeding, Officer John Pepper detected a strong odor of marijuana. Seized in a subsequent search of the vehicle were approximately two pounds of marijuana. The driver, who was traveling 74 mph in a 55 mph zone on I-65, was charged with felony marijuana possession. He was also wanted on an outstanding warrant.

## **Central**

A man arrested over 20 times since 2004 on charges including burglary and trespassing was found sleeping inside a fenced area of Groom's Engines. The fence had been cut open and engine parts had been gathered nearby. He was charged with burglary, possession of burglary tools, and unlawful use of drug paraphernalia.

## **Cold Case Unit**

Meticulous investigation by the police department's Cold Case Unit has led to the identification of a convicted killer as the man believed responsible for the 1991 robbery and murder of American Airlines employee Ernest Wilson.

David Bryan Smith, 33, is currently serving a 17-year sentence for a 2005 murder in East Nashville. Because Smith was age 16 when Wilson was shot to death, the prosecution process must begin in Juvenile Court, where a petition charging Smith with criminal homicide is now on file.

Shortly after 10 p.m. on July 9, 1991, Wilson, 41, who lived on Kingview Drive, was cleaning his Chevrolet pickup truck at a carwash in the 3400 block of Clarksville Pike when he was approached by two teenagers, one of them believed to have been Smith. Detectives think Smith, who was armed with a pistol, ordered Wilson into the truck while the second teen got into the back. Wilson drove a short distance to Ashland City Highway and Briley Parkway where he was shot several times while being robbed of his wallet and keys. The second person at the scene, who was age 19 at the time, has been located and interviewed. He is not facing any charges at present.

Smith, when visited in prison by Cold Case Detective Hugh Coleman, refused to answer questions about the Wilson murder case.

In a second cold case investigation by Detective Coleman, two persons face a first-degree murder indictment for the January 15, 1999, shooting death of Marquis Randolph Miller.

Charged are Fredrico Lorenzo Horton and his girlfriend, Marria Thompson, both 28.

The investigation shows that Miller was shot in the head behind a building on 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in retaliation for his suspected robbery and wounding of a drug dealer earlier in the month. Horton and Thompson were close friends of the drug dealer and witness information led to their identification in the murder investigation.

Thompson was arrested on the indictment this week. Horton is currently serving a nine-year sentence for a 2006 robbery conviction.

## **Aggressive Driving Unit**

A routine traffic stop Wednesday afternoon led to the arrest of a man indicted last October on two counts of vehicular homicide.

Omar Herrera Jimenez, 27, a suspected illegal alien, is alleged to have been speeding and driving drunk when his Chevrolet Tahoe crashed into a utility pole on Nolensville Pike near Paragon Mills Road on June 18, 2006. Both of his passengers, Jose A. Herra Virgen, 21, and Jorge Herra, 28, were killed.

Aggressive Driving Unit Officer Coleman Womack stopped Jimenez for driving 82 mph in a 70 mph zone on I-24 Wednesday. Efforts to locate and arrest Jimenez since last October had been unsuccessful.

A federal hold has been placed on Jimenez until his immigration status can be verified.

**The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Patrol, Police, and Investigator of the Month for December 2007:**

**Patrol Officer of the Month**

Hermitage Precinct Officer Patrick Ragan

**Police Officer of the Month**

West Precinct Officer Thomas O'Brien

**Investigator of the Month**

South Precinct Detective Brad Corcoran

**Special Operations**

Traffic Section Officer John Roberson

**The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen 2007 Patrol, Police, and Investigator of the Year:**

**Patrol Officer of the Year**

Hermitage Precinct Officer Phillip Meador

**Police Officer of the Year**

Hermitage Precinct Officers Cindy Huffines and Cedric Connolly

**Investigator of the Year**

East Precinct Detectives Paul Harris and Rex Davenport

**The following officers in the Investigative Services Bureau were chosen Investigator of the Month for November and December 2007:**

**November Investigator of the Month**

Specialized Investigations Division Officer Jamie Scruggs

**December Investigator of the Month**

Criminal Investigations Division Detective Jason Terry



**The following officers in the Investigative Services Bureau were chosen 2007**  
**Investigators of the Year**

Criminal Investigations Division Sergeant Pat Postiglione and Detective Lee Freeman

***MNPD Wellness Tip-off***  
***Tip-off for the week***

**Eat Heart Smart: Trim it down for the New Year.** For a heart healthy diet and weight management, only 25-35% percent of your total calories should come from fat. What does this mean? Most of your calories should come from whole grains, fruits, vegetables, lean meats, and low-fat dairy items. Try trimming off some of the fat by buying reduced-fat or non-fat milk, yogurt, lunch meat and dressings. While eating out select items that are baked or grilled instead of battered, fried, "doubled" or "tripled."

**Choose to Move: Just Breathe!** Aerobic conditioning is great for strengthening your heart and lungs! Try to do 30 minutes of aerobic exercise most days of the week. Some aerobic exercises include: brisk walking, jogging, jump roping, jumping jacks, bike riding, swimming laps, and playing basketball or soccer.

***NFD/MNPD Wellness Initiative***  
***Tara Beever, MS and Sarah Vaughn, RD***  
*For more information, please call (615)-340-0466*

**Congratulations:**

Officer Johnnie Melzoni, West Precinct, and his wife Kim, are the proud parents of Brodie Dalen Melzoni, born December 12.

Officer Dwayne Greene, Special Operations, and his wife, Yolanda, are the proud parents of Madison Martha Greene, born January 5.

Sergeant Preston Brandimore, North Precinct, and his wife, are the proud parents of Cecilie Rose Brandimore, born January 7.



### **Condolences:**

Louise Dunaway, wife of retired Sergeant Willie Dunaway, passed away December 21.

Montra Denning, grandmother of Detective Mark Webb, South Precinct, passed away December 15.

Mattie J. Garrett, grandmother of Cornelius Foster, Secondary Employment Unit, passed away.

Richard T. Foley, Jr., father of Captain Rich Foley, passed away.

The mother of Officer Carey Steel, Traffic Section, passed away January 1.

Rosie Neloms, the mother of Jennifer Neloms, Records/Teleserve Unit, passed away January 4.

Violet Mai Pardue, mother of retired Sergeant Doug Pardue, and mother-in-law of Captain Marlene Pardue, passed away January 6.

Kenneth Wells, brother of Officer Harold Wells, School Resource, passed away.

Hazel Gothenore, aunt of Lt. Danny Driskell, East Investigations, passed away January 10.

**FYI:**

## **2008 Polar Bear Plunge Freezin' for a Reason**

Please join us for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics  
Saturday, February 16, at Nashville Shores

11 a.m. registration, noon plunge

Visit the MNPD website at [www.police.nashville.org](http://www.police.nashville.org) and click on the polar bear icon for more information. Hope to see you there!



Come take a dip with me

# **Benefit Board Election**

**January, 22, 2008**

## **Police Employee Representative**

**All Police Department personnel currently enrolled in a Metro Employee Benefit Board plan are eligible to become candidates and vote.**

**Note:** Due to the resignation of Board Member Steve Bumpus, the candidate elected will serve the remainder of the incumbent's term.

All employees interested in becoming a candidate must file a qualifying petition signed by at least twenty five eligible police employees. In order to place your name on the ballot, qualifying petitions must be received in the Department of Human Resources, 222 3rd Avenue North, 2nd Floor, by 4:30 p.m. on November 30, 2007.

For additional information about filing a petition, call: Steve Cain at 862-6640 Ext. 72267.

**NOTE:** In the event only one candidate qualifies to be on the ballot and is unopposed, the qualified candidate will be declared the winner.

In that event, voting will not take place.

**The Election will be conducted by machine vote on January 22, 2008 from 6:30 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. Majority vote determines election winner.**

### **Requirement to Vote:**

Payroll advice slip for those who receive direct deposit dated January 22, 2008 (or paycheck stub for those who receive a check) and Active Police Department ID will be required (no exceptions).

Eligible voter will then sign eligibility roster.

### **Voting Locations:**

- North Precinct
- South Precinct
- East Precinct
- West Precinct
- Criminal Justice Center- Headquarters
- Hermitage Precinct
- Central Precinct

 Requests for ADA accommodation should be directed to the Metro Human Resources Dept. @ 862-6640

There will be **NO** Environmental Court February 6, 2008.